

Thursday, 28 August 2014
Please quote our reference: 099:AB

Dr Wendy Craik AM,
Presiding Commissioner,
Inquiry into Childcare and Early Childhood Learning,
Productivity Commission,
By email: childcare@pc.gov.au

Dear Dr Craik,

RE: PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION INQUIRY INTO CHILDCARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING

I write to draw the Commission's attention to the release of a report by *the McKell Institute* that shows how licensed clubs can assist governments in meeting critical demand for social services by providing affordable child care facilities.

Undertaken in association with ClubsNSW, the report, titled *Meeting the Shortfall: How Clubs Can Provide Affordable Social Services in Our Communities*, recommends that new partnerships between government and not-for-profit organisations are needed to deliver affordable social services at a time where government budgets are constrained by changing demographics, increased demand and shrinking revenue growth.

It is within this space that not-for-profit clubs are well positioned to deliver affordable access to child care; the Industry's extensive community networks, sizeable facilities, geographic footprint and capital expenditure programs ensures that clubs can help fill service gaps where the demand is most acute.

The Report argues for new policy settings and incentives to encourage greater involvement by clubs in social service delivery. Key recommendations include the establishment of an infrastructure fund and an extension of income tax exemptions to cover clubs whose primary purpose involves the provision of social services including child care.

Clubs Australia encourages the Commission to actively consider the *Meeting the Shortfall* Report as a credible solution to the chronic shortage of affordable social services and infrastructure across Australia. A copy of the Report is **attached** and may be found at <http://mckellinstitute.org.au>.

Clubs Australia thanks the Commission for the opportunity to provide comment. If any further information is required please contact Josh Landis, Clubs Australia Executive Manager – Public Affairs

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Ball,
Executive Director

Enc.

ClubsAustralia Incorporated
ABN 32 691 361 915

Level 8, 51 Druitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000
P 02 9268 3000 F 02 9268 3066